

Dive into Summer

Blast from the Past Car Show:

Catch the action every Wednesday evening through September 1. Check out over 100 classic cars and motorcycles on display and enjoy the food, live music and more on Third Avenue in downtown Chula Vista from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Downtown Business Association, (619) 422-1982.

Music in the Park: A free public concert series, begins on June 13 and continues until Sept. 4. The concert



schedule will include Saturday and Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings. For more scheduling information, please call the City's Office of Cultural Arts at (619) 585-5627.

July Fourth Fireworks: Celebrate Independence Day with a spectacular display of fireworks at the Chula Vista Marina on July 4 at 9 p.m. Sponsored by the City of Chula Vista's Department of Recreation. For further details, please call (619) 585-5682.

Lemon Festival: Free family festival celebrating Chula Vista's history as the lemon capital of the U.S., includes live entertainment on two stages, a classic car show, beer gardens, kids fun zone, food and art. The fun begins at 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 15 from Third



Avenue between E and H Streets. Sponsored by the Downtown Business Association, (619) 422-1982.

Taste of Third Art Walk: Self-

guided walking tour of downtown Chula Vista restaurants with taste samples, local artists and live music from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sept. 9. For ticket information and further details, please call the Downtown Business Association, (619) 422-1982.

For more information about events taking place in Chula Vista throughout the year, please call the City's special events hotline at (619) 585-5682; or visit the "Calendar" page on the City's Web site at www.chulavistaca.gov. ■



From Chula Vista to Athens

Excitement is building in and around the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista as athletes gear up for the summer games in Athens, Greece. Training has reached a level of intensity only world class athletes can appreciate as competitors enter the home stretch after four years of demanding training.

So far, eleven individual athletes and one team from the training center have qualified for the 2004 Olympic Games.

Runners Meb Keflezighi and Deena (Drossin) Kastor will represent the U.S. in the men's and women's marathon, respectively.



In race walking, Curt Clausen and Philip Dunn are going for the gold in the men's 50-K race walk competition. In case you missed it, Clausen took first place at the U.S. Olympic Trials race held at the Chula Vista Marina on Feb. 15. A month later, Philip Dunn qualified at a competition in Tijuana, Mexico.

Recently, six members of both the men's and women's Sprint Canoe/Kayak teams punched their own ticket to the Olympic Games. Rami Zur, Carrie Johnson, Kathy Colin, Lauren Spalding, Marie Mijalis and Jeff Smoke are the Chula Vista resident athletes that will be competing in Athens.

Slalom (rough water) Kayaker Rebecca Giddens, another athlete training at the center,



earned a place on the team and is headed for the Olympic Games.

The U.S. Women's Softball Team, whose members train at the Olympic training Center every month, qualified for the Olympic Games last fall. Since then, the team has been touring and running Olympic preparation camps. The Americans won the gold in Sydney and Atlanta, and are aiming for another win in 2006.

More Chula Vista names may be added to the Athens line-up when the Track and Field Olympic Trials are held in Sacramento July 9-18.

The public is invited to participate in free tours of the OTC, offered from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays. Watch some of the world's best athletes as they prepare for competition. ■

Parks in Progress

continued from front page

"This is the first time we've done all the designing and planning in-house," says General Services Director Jack Griffin. "We've had extensive outreach with residents, Harborside Elementary School staff, parents and teachers." Construction begins in late 2004.

More neighborhood parks and three large community parks with recreation centers are planned for eastern Chula Vista. Each of the large projects is unique:

- Veterans Park in Sunbow will have a Walk of Honor to recognize the contributions of active and retired military, police and firefighters.
- Salt Creek Park in EastLake Trails will take advantage of its location and the creek running through it to offer educational opportunities to study the abundant plant and animal life in the area.

- Monteville Park in Rolling Hills Ranch will have a sports emphasis. The 29-acre park will include athletic fields, a number of basketball and tennis courts, a large playground and an off-leash dog area.



Harborside Park

- Mt. San Miguel Community Park in San Miguel Ranch will feature three regulation size softball fields plus extensive picnicking opportunities, sports courts, a skate area and off-leash dog areas.

One of the most scenic spots in the City will be Mountain Hawk Park, a neighborhood park in EastLake Vistas, which is sure to become a favorite of photographers and wedding planners. The site overlooks Lower Otay Lake and has spectacular views of the water and mountains. The design concept was the result of a City-sponsored competition.

In addition to building new facilities, Chula Vista is renovating its playground equipment—citywide. In 2003, new playground equipment was installed at five parks and six more parks will be updated over the next two years. ■

Chula Vista

Spotlight

City Council
Stephen C. Padilla, Mayor
Patty Davis
John McCann
Jerry R. Rindone
Mary Salas
City Manager
David D. Rowlands, Jr.



The Chula Vista Spotlight newsletter is published five times per year and is distributed as a public service to residents and businesses by the City of Chula Vista. Copies are also available at various locations around the city. Send comments or inquiries to the Office of Communications, City of Chula Vista, 276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910. The city's Web page address is www.chulavistaca.gov.

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Spotlight

CITY OF CHULA VISTA

SUMMER 2004



PHOTO BY MIKE ARMSTRONG

Parks in Progress

Where will you spend your leisure time this summer? Consider playing ball, having a picnic or taking a jog in one of Chula Vista's 44 neighborhood and community parks. In the months and years ahead, your options will multiply.

The largest and most significant park development effort in the City's history is now underway. More than \$50 million is being spent to design, build and renovate parks of all sizes throughout Chula Vista. Twelve brand new facilities will be coming on line by 2007.

In western Chula Vista, a neighborhood park that includes an outdoor classroom for children will be built along Oxford Street, between Broadway and Industrial Boulevard. Five acres of vacant land will be transformed into Harborside Park, a place for families to picnic and take walks, and for kids to skateboard, play soccer and basketball. A gazebo will be a perfect place to hold community events.

Please see **Parks in Progress**, inside

Traffic Watch

Major road construction projects are getting underway in the City of Chula Vista that will have an impact on local traffic in the months ahead. When the work is done, there will be less traffic congestion and fewer delays. In the interim, however, motorists will experience some inconvenience.

The \$22 million Olympic Parkway/I-805 Interchange project has already begun and will take 18 months to complete. Plans call for widening a stretch of roadway along Olympic Parkway and Orange Avenue between Oleander and Melrose Avenues. Additional lanes will be added to the freeway overpass and freeway ramps will be widened. Auxiliary lanes will be built along I-805 to ease merging between Orange Avenue/Olympic Parkway and Main Street.

Although construction is planned in stages to minimize the impact on traffic, some delays are expected. Here are some suggestions about how to cope with the inconvenience.

- Take alternate routes. Use surface streets to get around the city.
- Leave early for appointments.
- Avoid rubbernecking. If drivers are watching the construction activity, they're not paying attention to other cars. Accidents cause unnecessary delays.

- Check the City's Web site, www.chulavistaca.gov for daily updates on this project and others that may impact traffic.

For more information, residents can call the City's special road construction hotline mailbox at (619) 397-6352. Someone will return your call.

Motorists should be aware of two other construction projects that may trigger delays.

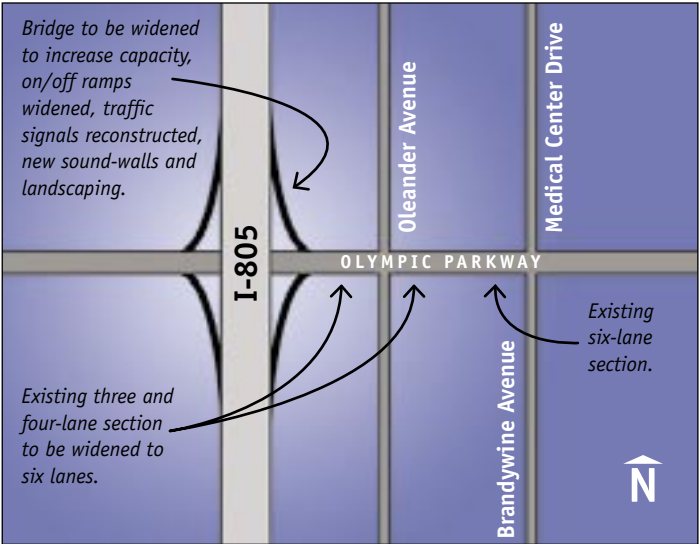
Along Telegraph Canyon Road, an additional westbound lane will be added from west of Crest Drive to the I-805 northbound freeway ramp. Also, the ramp will be widened to improve the flow of traffic to the freeway.

The third and final phase of interchange improvements at East H and I-805 will soon begin. The northbound freeway ramp and the westbound approach to the ramp will be widened.

To avoid dealing with the inconvenience of road construction, consider participating in the City's new transportation program that will pay commuters to carpool, ride the bus or take free express shuttles during peak hours. For details, write to TDMP@ci.chula-vista.ca.us. ■



Olympic Parkway/I-805 Interchange Improvements



Academy Students Learn about Law from the Inside

Fingerprint analysis, fabric fiber collection and sentencing guidelines. That may not sound like topics teenagers would study, but students enrolled in the Academy of Criminology and Justice (ACJ) at Otay Ranch High School tackle those subjects and much more every day.

In this inaugural year of the academy, 70 freshmen and sophomore Mustangs are learning about the law in every class they take. Academy

courses are aligned with the rigorous "A-G" college preparation classes. But in these courses, students go in-depth into the "how" and the "why" of the commission of crimes, and even solve cases together.

The academy is the result of a unique partnership between the Chula Vista Police Department and the Sweetwater Union High School District. The team coordinating ACJ activities represents a fusion of academics and law enforcement. Members of that team blend law, language arts, science, DNA studies and physical education with police academy-style obstacle course training.

ACJ students are exposed to nearly every aspect of the law. This year, they were inducted into the world of enforcement, investigation and justice with a special exercise called *Murder at the Ranch*. It all began with the discovery of a body—the academy "dummy"—found murdered in a classroom. Students quickly shifted into

gear to assess the scene of the crime, collect and analyze evidence, interview suspects and witnesses, and bring the murderer to justice in peer court.

Academy participants have visited Donovan State Prison and the Museum of Tolerance. They have practiced shoe casting to capture footprints, forgery detection and interrogation techniques. And these future law professionals don't have a driver's license yet!

But they're still kids at heart. They chat about their dates and friends, and giggle when someone special walks by. But with a stern look from their squad leader Officer Kara Cannon or an academy teacher, they'll snap back to attention and get back to the business of learning the law. Maybe some of them will go on to become Chula Vista Police Officers, prosecutors, or even forensic pathologists. With the Otay Ranch ACJ, they'll have the tools to realize those dreams. ■



Are Your Neighbors Up to Code?

Are there old cars or debris in the front yard next door? Did your neighbors bypass City Hall to build an addition to their house that's not up to code? Is the large business sign across the street in violation of the City's sign ordinance?

Not everyone is a good neighbor! That's why cities rely on code enforcement officers to crack down on property owners, businesses and residents who flaunt the municipal code and violate zoning laws. Last year in

Chula Vista, more than 1,000 abandoned vehicles were removed from private properties.

At the direction of City Council, Chula Vista's Code Enforcement Program has beefed up its staffing levels and stepped up efforts to get rid of a growing number of eyesores in neighborhoods throughout Chula Vista.

Code enforcement officers are fanning out across the city, zeroing in on areas that have been neglected for years. The goal is to improve the appearance of the community and add to the overall quality of life for residents. Offenders can be issued warning letters or notices of

violation, and if necessary, slapped with citations that can result in hefty fines.

With extra people on board, Code Enforcement can respond to complaints from the public within 48 hours. The program has become more efficient and more proactive—and compliance is up.

What should you do about a problem in your neighborhood? If it's a minor issue, code enforcement officers recommend a friendly conversation with your neighbor detailing your concerns. If that isn't effective or the problem is a health and safety violation, please call (619) 691-5280. Your identity will remain confidential. ■

Around town...

Bicyclists Back on Course

After months of construction and lane closures along the E Street exit ramp of Interstate 5, the Gordy Shields Bridge is open to bicyclists! Until now, it's been the missing link



in an 800-mile bicycle network that winds through San Diego County. The bridge, dedicated to bicycle and pedestrian traffic only, crosses over the Sweetwater River and connects Chula Vista to National City.

Bicyclists like the idea of a smooth scenic ride along the bay. "This bridge is convenient," says bicyclist Mike Powell. "This is my favorite route because I can enjoy San Diego's natural beauty while I'm doing what I love."

The bridge, named after Gordy Shields, a long-time bike advocate and nationally recognized bicycle racer in his age category (over 80!) is part of the Bayshore Bikeway, a 26-mile course within the countywide network that travels through five San Diego County coastal cities—San Diego, Coronado, National City, Chula Vista and Imperial Beach.

A Brake for Firefighters

Are you thinking about donating a vehicle for a tax write-off and searching for a worthy cause? Consider the Chula Vista Firefighters Foundation,

a non-profit organization committed to providing community services.

Your donated vehicle will be sent to auction, and the proceeds from the sale will go directly to the Foundation. Money raised by firefighters supports fire safety programs for the community and encourages men and women to pursue careers in fire suppression.

For more information, please call the Chula Vista Firefighters Foundation at (619) 691-5030.

All Aboard at Rohr Park

In September, scale railroaders from all over the western United States will descend upon Rohr Park for their annual fall meeting. What's the attraction? Working locomotives and thousands of feet of track built by the Chula Vista Live Steamers, a non-profit organization made up of steam engine enthusiasts. CVLS is dedicated to educating the public about miniature train operations and safety and is hosting the big event September 4 and 5.

The second weekend of every month, members of CVLS offer train rides to the public in exchange for a small donation. The money is being used to double the amount of track built at the park to 8,000 feet.

For membership information, write to CVLS, Inc., P.O. Box 369, Chula Vista, CA 91912.



City News

- The Chula Vista Nature Center has received official confirmation that it has been re-accredited by the prestigious American Association of Museums (AAM). "AAM's seal of approval gives our visitors the knowledge that we provide exceptional care for our animals and offer programs of the highest quality," said Nature Center Director Dan Beintema. "We're especially proud to be listed among fewer than 10 percent of museums and nature centers nationwide that are accredited."



For information about the Nature Center, visit www.chulavistaca.gov or call (619) 409-5900.

- It will not be business as usual this summer at City Hall. As the Civic Center construction project gets underway, City Hall staff and the Mayor and Council offices will move into the former police headquarters building. The relocation is temporary. Construction is scheduled to begin in August. ■